

The British Music Society of Victoria existing as
LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY INC.

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Founded in 1921 by Mrs Louise Dyer

Patron Marion Louise Poynter

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SOCIETY NEWS

May 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our May concert was an outstanding success. The Hopkins Quartet gave a recital full of vitality and energy. The highlight for me was their emotionally powerful rendition of the slow movement from the Samuel Barber String Quartet.

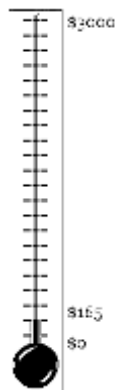
There were 133 audience members who showed a wonderful appreciation for the marvellous program that the Quartet presented. We also received some great feedback from cellist Sharon Draper who said, "It was really lovely playing there, and so nice to see such a full and appreciative audience!"

Fundraising Thermometer

Please remember to put your gold coin in the box for the program so we can raise our artists' fees. This will help us to continue providing you with recitals featuring professional artists.

Try Bookings

Try bookings is proving to be popular and is an easy way for our members and guests to buy tickets or memberships using a credit card.



3MBS 103.5FM

Those who enjoyed (even those who missed) our very first concert of the year with Caroline Almonte and Elizabeth Sellars can tune into 3MBS at 1.30pm on Friday, 10 June to hear the recording of that recital.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next concert on 5 June when we have a very special 'All Australian' program.

Sarah Cuming

SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for their contribution to the Society's 90th anniversary year activities.



Anniversary Concert

We are looking forward to Elizabeth Anderson (harpichord) presenting a wonderful concert for our anniversary on 21 August at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Elizabeth was to give a recital with Miwako Abe but unfortunately Miwako has been called back to Japan to care for her elderly parents. We are very fortunate that cello and gamba specialist, **Jamie Hey** has instead agreed to play for us.

In 1995 Jamie Hey joined the *Australian Brandenburg Orchestra (ABO)*, becoming principal cellist in 2002. In the same year he received the Dean's Medal for outstanding achievement as an Honours graduate at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. In 2002-03 he also studied in Australia & Japan with baroque cellist Hidemi Suzuki.

As well as performing as principal cellist of *Il Complesso Barocco* under the direction of Alan Curtis in Italy, Austria & France, Jamie has performed in the fortepiano trio *Ensemble of the Classic Age* with Geoffrey Lancaster; as principal cellist of *Sinfonia Australis*; and with Sydney's *Pinchgut Baroque Opera Company*.

His broadcast solo performances include recitals for the *Melbourne Autumn Music Festival*, the Pearl Beach Chamber Music Festival and concerto performances with the ABO. Jamie also appeared as a featured soloist on the ABO's Aria award winning recordings of *Handel's Opus 6 Concerti Grossi & Sanctuary*.

The program will now include:

- Bach - Sonata No. 3 in G minor for viola da gamba and harpsichord BWV 1029
- Bach - Sonata in D major BWV 963 finale

Tickets for this concert and the Anniversary Commission Concert on 24 September are available through Try Bookings www.trybookings.com.au or at the ticket desk at our monthly recitals.

JUNE CONCERT PROGRAM

The program for our June concert reflects the Society's ongoing commitment to Australian composers that was started by our founder, Louise Hanson-Dyer. The repertoire includes:

Margaret Sutherland - Sonata for piano and cello "Fantasy Sonata" (1942)

Julian Yu - Dovetailing, Op. 29 (1993) for solo cello

Linda Kouvaras - Bundanon Sonata for violin and piano (2011) (premiere)

Interval

Stuart Greenbaum - 800 Million Heartbeats for piano trio (2007)

Percy Grainger - Sussex Mummer's Christmas Carol (1905)

Rosanne Hunt began cello studies with her mother, Marianne Hunt, a former committee member of the Society. Rosanne led the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's cello section for a number of years. Her wide-ranging freelance career has included periods with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Elision and Libra contemporary music groups, and the Arcadia Baroque ensemble among others.

Glenn Riddle studied at the Royal College of Music, London and at the Vienna Universität für Musik before returning to Australia. Currently Glenn is Lecturer in Music at the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Music, University of Melbourne. One of Australia's leading mentors of young piano talent, Glenn's students have been major prize-winners in national and international piano competitions.

Marianne Rothschild completed her Bachelor of Music Performance in violin at the VCA in 1997. In 2000 she was accepted into the Australian National Academy of Music where she was chosen as one of five violinists nationally to study on scholarship for a year. Marianne plays violin professionally with the Australian Pops Orchestra, the National Boy's Choir and has led the Grainger Ensemble on numerous occasions. She has also played with Orchestra Victoria and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Louise Hanson-Dyer and composer, **Margaret Sutherland** met while studying at the Albert Street Conservatorium in Melbourne. They worked together on a number of projects in Melbourne including recitals of Sutherland's music and publishing projects. Louise published Sutherland's best known work, the Sonata for Violin and Piano. Margaret Sutherland also served on the Society's committee in 1936-37.

[Source: Davison, Jim. *Lyrebird Rising*. Carlton, Vic: Miegunyah Press, 1994]

Dr Linda Kouvaras is a musicologist, composer and pianist. She holds a Senior Lectureship in Music at the University of Melbourne, and publishes in contemporary music, classical and popular, focusing especially on Australian music.

Linda's works and piano performances have been recorded by Move Records and the ABC and are frequently broadcast on the radio. Her solo CD is *Kouvaras: Piano Works* (Move Records, 2000). Linda has just returned from her fourth artist-in-residence stay at Bundanon, the Boyd Estate in NSW, where she wrote *Bundanon Sonata for Violin and Piano*, to be premiered by Marianne Rothschild and Glenn Riddle at the June recital.

Julian Yu, who was born in Beijing in 1957, surprised his non-musical family by writing his first composition, a one-act Peking opera, at the age of twelve. He went on to study composition at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and later joined the teaching staff. From 1980 to 1982 Julian studied at the Tokyo College of Music under Joji Yuasa and Schin-ichiro Ikebe before migrating to Australia in 1985. Julian wrote "Dovetailing", a short suite in five movements for solo cello based on the Cello Suites by J S Bach. It was recorded by Rosanne Hunt on 13th October 2009.

Stuart Greenbaum was born in Melbourne in 1966. At school he studied oboe, piano and electric guitar and started writing songs. At the University of Melbourne, he studied composition with Brenton Broadstock and Barry Conyngham and took an interest in composers influenced by Minimalism. He now holds a position as Associate Professor and Convenor of Composition at the University of Melbourne. Stuart has won a number of awards, including the 1991 Lyrebird Commission for a String Quartet, Dorian Le Galliene Composition Award, the Heinz Harant Prize, and the Albert H Maggs Composition Award. *90 Minutes Circling the Earth* won 'Orchestral Work of the Year' at the 2008 Classical Music Awards. He also served on the committee of the Society from 1993-1995.

Eight Hundred Million Heartbeats arranged by the composer for piano trio is based on the fact that most mammals' lives apparently last for around 800 million heartbeats. This was the contention of a nature documentary. Birds like the hummingbird have a very rapid wing motion - so fast that it becomes a blur. It also has a correspondingly fast heart rate and metabolism and lives a shorter (and arguably more intense) life. By contrast, the sloth has a very slow heart rate, sleeps much and has a relatively long life. If humans had only 800 million heartbeats in a life, we would die young (probably in our twenties). The actual figure is only nominal. It becomes a heightened metaphor for a life, measured in heartbeats, and the journeys that fill its course.

JULY CONCERT

A reminder, our July concert is on **Sunday, 10 July**.